

Pholistoma racemosum (A. Gray) Constance, WHITE FIESTA FLOWER. Annual, viney, taprooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, branched throughout, reclining and ± clambering over itself and other low plants, to 90 cm long; shoots with only cauline leaves, weak-stemmed and wilting easily, leafy at base but mostly with widely spaced leaves, conspicuously prickly with recurved, teethlike hairs (prickles) and straighter bristly hairs having bulbous bases, not hooked-puberulent. **Stems:** cylindrical, to 3 mm in diameter, herbaceous, green and purplish on exposed sides, glaucous, with scattered recurved prickles. **Leaves:** opposite decussate with pair nearly fused across node (the lowermost shoot) and mostly helically alternate (upper shoot), deeply and broadly pinnately lobed with 3–9 lobes, petiolate and somewhat clasping, without stipules; petiole ± narrowly winged, 6–22 mm long, wings ascending, with stiff hairs on margins and softer hairs on upper side; blade ovate or deltate to rhombic in outline, 25–80 × 25–60 mm, lobes opposite or alternate, ⊥ to midrib with rounded sinuses, narrowly oblong to ovate or obovate, 3–30 mm long, often with several teeth, blunt acute at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on upper surface and principal veins raised on lower surface, bristly hairy and typically lacking prickles, the tissue beneath each hair sometimes purple. **Inflorescence:** racemelike cyme with certain flowers appearing solitary and bracteate, terminal and axillary, open, having the pattern of a solitary flower at a node arising opposite a bractlet alternating with an axillary cyme at the next node, each axillary cyme 3–7-flowered with the first flower again arising ± opposite a bractlet, bristly hairs having bulbous bases; peduncle of cyme cylindrical, to 20 mm long, resembling stem having only recurved prickles, glaucous; bractlet subtending pedicel of the first flower of a cyme leaflike; pedicel slender, 2–5 mm long increasing 3× in fruit, often purplish, glaucous. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, in range 4–5 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, crownlike with 5 projecting, sinus appendages (unexpanded tip of fold), green with deep purple, glossy, with bristles and prickles; tube cup-shaped, ± 1.2 mm long, colorless at base and green above midpoint with scattered bristles having deep purple bases, internally with appressed, straight, white bristles; sharply folded outward at sinus, appendages horizontal, narrowly ovate, < 1 mm long, deep purple and green; lobes curved-ascending, equal, triangular-lanceolate, 3 × 2 mm, straight-bristly ciliate and purplish on margins, with a large bristle at tip, inner (upper) surface with finer straight hairs above midpoint; **corolla** 5-lobed, ± 2.5 mm long, in bud lacking obvious dimples; tube bell-shaped, ± 1 mm long, greenish, the lower portion having no pouches projecting between calyx lobes, internally with a pair of scales paralleling the base of each stamen, the scales vertical and not fused to filament, ± rectangular, 0.4–0.5 mm long, colorless, with papillate-hairy margin; throat spreading, ca. 0.5 mm long, white; lobes ascending, rounded, 1 × 1.5 mm, slightly exceeding calyx, white, with some short bristles on back (lower) surface where exposed in bud; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla near base of tube; filaments erect, equal, 1.2–1.4 mm long, whitish, glabrous, not glossy; anthers included, ± versatile, dithecal, 0.7 × 0.4–0.5 mm, striped blue-violet and white, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen colorless; **nectary disc** encircling base of pistil, ringlike and > ovary, pale green; **pistil** 1, in range 2.1–2.4 mm long; ovary superior, spheroid, ± 0.7 mm long, light green, densely white-strigose, 1-chambered with 4–8 ovules; style ca. 1.5 mm long, whitish, 2-branched, the branches ascending, 0.5–0.6 mm long, glabrous; stigmas capitate, greenish, papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal,

dehiscing by 2 valves, (1–)4–8-seeded, broadly and slightly compressed-subspheroid, 4–5 × 4 × 3.5 mm, with short and soft hairs at base to longer and stiff ascending straight hairs approaching tip; seeds embedded in placentae before dehiscence. **Seed:** broadly ellipsoid, ± 1.4 × 1 mm, dull brown, deeply honeycombed. Late February-early April.

Native. Annual known from shaded slope in southern oak woodland of Little Sycamore Canyon (SMM), although it may be present in other coastal canyons, but otherwise is known from the Channel Islands and near the coast south of our range into Baja California. *Pholistoma racemosum* has recurved prickles and the same flower design of *P. auritum*, but are miniature in every character and lack most of the rich pigmentation of its cousin.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson